

4VAC15-240-60
Game: Turkey: Archery hunting.

Summary:

The proposal is to align the fall turkey archery season with the current statewide deer and bear archery season dates.

Proposed language of amendment:

4VAC15-240-60. Archery hunting.

A. Season. It shall be lawful to hunt turkey with archery equipment or a slingbow in those counties and areas open to fall turkey hunting from the first Saturday in October through the Friday ~~that is 13 days after the Saturday before the last Monday in October prior to the third Monday in November~~, both dates inclusive.

B. Bag limit. The daily and seasonal bag limit for hunting turkey with archery equipment or a slingbow shall be the same as permitted during the general turkey season in those counties and areas open to fall turkey hunting, and any turkey taken shall apply toward the total season bag limit.

C. Carrying firearms prohibited. It shall be unlawful to carry firearms while hunting with archery equipment or a slingbow during the special archery season.

D. Use of dogs prohibited during archery season. It shall be unlawful to use dogs when hunting with archery equipment from the first Saturday in October through the Saturday prior to the second Monday in November, both dates inclusive.

Rationale:

Currently the fall turkey archery season ends one week earlier than the deer and bear archery season. The archery harvest during the fall season generally makes up approximately 5-7% of the total fall turkey harvest each year and thus does not likely pose a significant biological implication if one additional week was added to this season. By aligning the statewide archery season dates for deer, bear, and turkey this will likely limit hunter confusion with differing end dates while also increasing the opportunity for fall turkey hunting.